

Romero, Jessica, RLD

From: Amorette Tafoya Garcia <amorette.d.garcia@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2026 4:49 PM
To: Commission, Athletic, RLD
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Repeal of Bare Knuckle Fighting in New Mexico

Dear Members of the New Mexico Athletic Commission,

I am writing as a New Mexico resident to respectfully oppose the proposed repeal of bare knuckle fighting in our state.

New Mexico has long been recognized as one of the premier combat sports states in the nation. Our state has produced world-class boxers, MMA fighters, coaches, and gyms, and we have built a reputation as a place where combat athletes can pursue their passions in a regulated and professional environment. Bare knuckle fighting has become a part of that growing combat sports community, providing opportunities for athletes, trainers, referees, judges, promoters, medical staff, vendors, and countless small businesses that benefit from these events.

I believe there is a significant difference between regulation and prohibition. If there are concerns regarding athlete safety, event operations, or oversight, those concerns should be addressed through thoughtful regulation rather than eliminating the sport entirely. Regulation allows the Commission to establish standards, enforce medical requirements, oversee licensing, and ensure that events are conducted safely and professionally. Repealing the sport removes those protections while taking away opportunities from athletes and businesses that have complied with the rules established by the state.

As adults, athletes should have the freedom to choose whether they participate in a legal and regulated combat sport. Every combat sport carries risk, including boxing, mixed martial arts, kickboxing, wrestling, and others. The role of regulation should be to manage those risks responsibly, not to eliminate opportunities for consenting adults to compete.

The economic impact should also be considered. Combat sports events bring visitors to our communities, fill hotel rooms, support restaurants, generate tax revenue, and create business opportunities for local vendors and service providers. Fighters often spend years training and investing their own time and resources to compete professionally. Repealing bare knuckle fighting would force many of those opportunities to leave New Mexico and move to neighboring states that continue to regulate and support the sport.

Beyond economics, combat sports provide structure, discipline, mentorship, and purpose for many participants. Gyms become communities. Coaches become mentors. Athletes learn accountability, resilience, and hard work. The positive impact of combat sports extends far beyond a single event or paycheck.

I respectfully ask the Commission to carefully consider the consequences of this decision and to pursue solutions that preserve the sport through regulation rather than repeal it altogether. New Mexico has always been a state that values personal responsibility, individual freedom, and opportunity. I believe those values are best served by allowing regulated bare knuckle competition to continue.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to the people of New Mexico.

Respectfully,

Amorette Garcia
Rio Rancho, New Mexico
Combat Sports Supporter and New Mexico Resident